



Monday, December 8, 2014
10am - 12 pm. Walter Hall

SPECIAL GUEST MASTER CLASS

JOHN O'CONOR

Professor of Piano (Shenandoah Conservatory)
Visiting Professor (Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music)

PROGRAM

Felix Mendelssohn	Variations sérieuses, Op. 54 Gina Lee
Sergei Rachmaninov	Etude Op 39, #5 Da Hye Kim
César Franck	Prélude, Choral, et Fugue Rashaan Allwood

"A pianist of unbounding sensitivity" (*Gramophone*) ; "He represents a vanishing tradition that favors inner expression and atmosphere over showmanship and bravura" (*Chicago Tribune*) ; "Impeccable technique and musicality ... it would be hard to imagine better performances" (*Sunday Times – London*) ; "This artist has the kind of flawless touch that makes an audience gasp" (*Washington Post*); "Exquisite playing" (*New York Times*).

The Irish pianist **John O'Connor** has been gathering wonderful reviews for his masterly playing for over forty years. Having studied in his native Dublin, in Vienna with Dieter Weber and being tutored by the legendary Wilhelm Kempff his unanimous 1st Prize at the International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna in 1973 opened the door to a career that has brought him all around the world.

His recordings of the complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas led *CD Review* to say that he "by now should be recognised as the world's premier Beethoven interpreter" and his recent recordings of the complete Beethoven Piano Concertos with the London Symphony Orchestra and Andreas Delfs have also been greeted with acclaim.

A Steinway Artist, he is Chair of the Piano Division at Shenandoah University in Virginia, a faculty member at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, International Visiting Artist at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Visiting Professor at Showa University in Japan.

For his services to music he has been decorated "Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the French Government, awarded the "Ehrenkreuz fur Wissenschaft und Kunst" by the Austrian Government, the "Order of the Rising Sun" by the Japanese Government and has received many other awards.

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